Basic information

2000/2159(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Forest-based and related industries: state of competitiveness **Subject** 3.40.07 Building industry 3.40.14 Industrial competitiveness	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	SEPPÄNEN Esko (GUE/NGL)	12/07/2000

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
ENVI Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	PESÄLÄ Mikko (ELDR)	11/07/2000

Council of the European Union

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
05/10/1999	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1999)0457	Summary
03/07/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
05/12/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
05/12/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0384/2000	

18/01/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0035/2001	Summary
18/01/2001	Debate in Parliament		
18/01/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
18/09/2001	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2000/2159(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 148
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ITRE/5/12140

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0384/2000	05/12/2000	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0035/2001 OJ C 262 18.09.2001, p. 0179-0252	18/01/2001	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1999)0457	05/10/1999	Summary

Forest-based and related industries: state of competitiveness

2000/2159(COS) - 05/10/1999 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to propose a series of measures that main sector players should adopt or continue, with a view to reinforcing global and sustainable competition in the Union's forest and forest-based industries. CONTENT : in the Communication, the Commission recognises the importance of forest and forest-based industries - which at present make up one of the biggest industrial sectors in the European Union - and of the role they play in sustainable development within the Union thanks to their social and economic weight, the high level of employment, and their particular environmental characteristics. Even if these industries generally maintain a good competitive position in comparison with their main partners/competitors, they have however been faced with several major challenges (in particular, market globalisation, technology, environmental sensitivity, the competition of other material and supports) which pose a threat to future competition and sustainability. The Communication outlines the main socio-economic characteristics of the forest industry in the European Union and analyses the main factors influencing competitiveness in relation to the main international competitors. It also highlights the main challenges facing forest and forest-based industries and areas where measures could contribute to its sustainable development taking into consideration its economic competitivity, the environment, employment and the social well-being. In order to efficiently promote these measures, the Commission, proposes to create a forum, made up of sector representatives, Commission services and interested parties (forest owners, unions, Environmental Protection NGOs, scientific world) as well as national experts and Members of the European Parliament. Its aim should be to: complete the analysis of competitive factors; make an inventory of the main challenges facing the forest industry; lead to a debate and find agreements on concrete measures to be launched and to be continued; monitor their implementation and ensure regular up-dates

on measures taken. In addition, the Commission proposes to reunite the forum in a plenary meeting, in collaboration with the Presidency and the high level industrial groups.

Forest-based and related industries: state of competitiveness

2000/2159(COS) - 18/01/2001 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted, with only a few amendments, the report by Mr Esko SEPPÄNEN (EUL/NGL, Fin) which takes a broad-based approach to ways for forestry and related industries to cope with globalisation and the need to observe higher environmental standards. The Parliament stresses that the forest-based industry can and should become a model sector in the field of sustainable development because its activities are based on renewable natural resources. The Commission is urged to strengthen its internal coordination in dealing with matters relating to the forestry sector without delay. Coordination and coherence within the sectoral Community policies having an impact on the forestry sector should be strengthened also. The Parliament recommends that, on the whole, the Community should work towards ensuring that the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) is launched as soon as possible and works efficiently to ensure that global minimum criteria for sustainable forests managament are established, in order to prevent actors within competing regions from taking unfair advantage of inferior standards. The Commission is also encouraged to examine the possibility of supporting EU and Member States' research projects which aim to use forest raw materials in a variety of new ways, in particular in the production of extremely valuable raw materials, e.g for medical purposes. Moreover, resources should be allocated to research into new ways of using wood as a renewable and environmentally friendly resource and material. The Community is called upon, in its negotiations at global level and in its own policy-making, to pay attention to the significant role of forests and wooden products in binding and storing carbon. Therefore, it urges the Community to promote sustainable forest management in the negotiations on the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol. With regard to Central and Eastern Europe, countries applying for EU membership must develop sustainable forestry and forest-based industries and that any EU aid must not lead to a distortion in the conditions of competition in foresty and the timber market. The Parliament considers the applicant countries have a great deal of potential in the timber-processing and related industries. Lastly, it was suggested by the MEPs that peat industries should also be included in the Forest Industries Cluster (FIC) as peatlands are afforested to produce timber. Other sectors included in the FIC are woodworking, pulp and paper production, paper and board pressing, packaging and, for the time being, printing and publishing.